



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## Montana Team Attends Policy Academy in Nashville

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Five individuals from Pondera County will be attending next week's Interoperability Policy Academy in Nashville, Tennessee on February 7-8. This two-day event will help county, city, and municipal officials address challenges to achieving communications interoperability at the local level, as well as address how to become involved in statewide planning efforts.

Participants include John Calahan, Conrad VFD Secretary/Conrad Public Works; Joe Christiaens, Chairman of the Pondera County Commissioners; Ruth Erickson, EMT, Ambulance Supervisor; Le Ann Hermance, DES Coordinator, E-911 Rural Addressing; and Tom Kuka, Pondera County Sheriff/Coroner.

The Policy Academy will deal with important questions about interoperability planning, and participants will learn how to advocate for and implement actions related to governance, procedures, technology, training & exercises, and usage of voice and data equipment in a seamless manner in real-time. The Academy is not a technical training seminar; rather, it will focus on policy-level issues and concerns.

The National Association of Counties, in collaboration with the National League of Cities, is hosting the Academy. County and City officials, both in elected and management positions, were invited to apply. Teams were to be made up of at least one governing elected official, plus representatives from agencies or departments such as fire, law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, information technology, public health, public works, telecommunications, and transportation.

Congratulations to Pondera County for applying for and being accepted for this great learning opportunity. Three other teams from Montana have attended Academies in the last year.

## CMICC Site Assessment with U.S. Air Force

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

On Jan. 31, Interoperability Montana Project Directors Cheri Kilby (CMICC), Kevin Bruski (MT Dept. of Transportation), and Roger Smith (MT

Highway Patrol) met with U.S. Air Force representatives: Jeanne Earl, Dave Hinds and Cindy O'Connell from Malmstrom Air Force Base to conduct a joint communications requirements assessment of Central Montana Interoperability Communications sites.

Also present were Ray Hetherington, Wheatland County 9-1-1 Dispatch Supervisor; Jeff Reynolds, SI International; Chris Christensen and Pete Mohan, PSSB; and Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman Project Management. The group met to delineate action items and completion dates for Memoranda of Agreement, Environmental Assessments, and other forms required to complete joint partnership requirements.

**Note:** The Wed., Feb. 6 CMICC meeting in Great Falls has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting will be on Wed., March 5. In lieu of the regular CMICC meeting on Feb 6, a preliminary meeting will be held at 11:00 am with the Chippewa Cree Tribe Technical Team at Council Chambers on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

## Tri-County Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The Tri-County Interoperable Consortium (Tri-County) meeting was conducted on Jan. 29 at the Department of Corrections in Helena. Chairman Sheriff Scott Howard chaired the meeting. December meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Consortium members discussed the Limestone, Grassy Mountain, and Bull Mountain communications sites and how they impact the Interoperability Montana Project, including their tie in with other consortia and partnership agencies. Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, submitted site reports and county representatives discussed them.

The consortium is proceeding well with narrow banding licenses and is developing new frequency usage plans. Programming and installation efforts are on track. Grant development and various courses of action were discussed. Bill Fleiner, Broadwater County representative and chair of the IM Governance Committee, emphasized the improvement in the overall progression of the entire project by obtaining legal status through the Interlocal Agreements.



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The next Tri-County Consortium meeting will be at 10:00 am on Wed., Feb. 27 in the conference room at the Department of Corrections Annex Building, behind 515 N. Sanders St.

## Upcoming Meetings

### February 4

#### *IMGC Finance Committee*

Helena • 9:00 am – Noon

Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive

#### *IM Governance Committee*

Helena • Noon – 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### February 5

#### IM Project Directors Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

### February 6

#### CMICC Meeting with Chippewa Cree

Rocky Boy's Reservation • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Council Chambers, (RR 1 Box Elder)

### February 7

#### Montana APCO Chapter Mtg. • Billings

9:00 am - 9-1-1 Committee

11:00 am - General Chapter Meeting

Billings Fire Department

2300 9th Avenue North

### February 7

#### NTIC Northern Tier (NTIP)

Technical/Board Combined Mtg. • Havre, 9:00 am

Great Northern Inn; 1345 1st St.

### February 13

#### South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)

Bozeman • 10:00 am

Bozeman Emergency Operations Center

219 East Tamarack

### February 19

#### Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)

Missoula • 10:00 am

Missoula Co. Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway

### February 20

#### Eastern Tier (ETIC) • Glendive • 10:00 am

Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

### February 21

#### I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

1000 George St.

### February 25

#### IM Technical Committee Face-to-Face Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

### February 27

#### Tri-County Consortium • Helena • 10:00 am

DOC Annex Conf Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### February 28

#### Mobile Data Terminal Consortium

Bozeman • 10:00 am

Best Western City Center Conf. Room

507 W Main St.

### February 28

#### Big Sky 11 • Billings • 10:00 am

Yellowstone County Fire Station 1 (EOC)

2305 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N.

### March 3

#### *IMGC Finance Committee*

Helena • 9:00 am – Noon

Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive

#### *IM Governance Committee*

Helena • Noon – 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### March 4

#### IM Project Directors Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

### March 5

#### Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)

Great Falls • 10:00 am

Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

